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## PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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JAN 30 2003

## **RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
Box Responses  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed October 22, 2002, Applicants submit the present amendments and remarks, and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the remaining claims.

## **AMENDMENTS**

**In the Claims**

Please cancel Claims 1-35 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add new Claims 36-58 as follows:

36. (New) A transgenic plant cell transformed by a Signal Transduction Stress-Related Protein (STSRP) coding nucleic acid, wherein expression of the STSRP in the plant cell results in the plant cell's increased tolerance to an environmental stress as compared to a wild type variety of the plant cell, wherein the environmental stress is selected from one or more of the

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on January 22, 2003.

William C. Wren  
W.M.C. Wren  
P. N. 26714

William L. Warren - Reg. No. 36,714